

On page 13, lines 5, 9, 14, 17, 19 and 27, please delete "10".

On page 14, lines 10, 11, 14, 18, 26 and 30, please delete "10".

On page 15, lines 5, 10, 17, 22, 24, 32 and 33, please delete "10".

On page 16, lines 5, 11, 16, 17 and 18, please delete "10".

On page 16, line 34, please delete "16", and insert -- 14 --.

On page 17, line 15, please delete "103" and insert -- 102 --.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-19.

Please add the following claims:

20. A stent having first and second ends with an intermediate section therebetween, and a longitudinal axis with an unexpanded configuration comprising: circumferentially spaced, longitudinally disposed struts; wherein each strut defines a wave along said longitudinal axis; and links for maintaining the struts along said circumference in a tubular structure, wherein the struts and links define an expandable structure having axial flexibility in said unexpanded configuration.

21. A stent having first and second ends with an intermediate section therebetween, the stent further having a longitudinal axis, and both an unexpanded and expanded configuration comprising:

(a) a plurality of longitudinally disposed struts, wherein each strut defines a wave along the longitudinal axis; the spatial frequency of the wave associated with each of the struts being different in a first end

region lying proximate to one of said ends in comparison to the spatial frequency of the wave in the intermediate section; and

(b) a plurality of links for maintaining the struts in a tubular structure;

wherein said frequency is greater in said first region.

22. A stent having first and second ends with an intermediate section therebetween, and a longitudinal axis, and both an unexpanded and expanded configuration comprising:

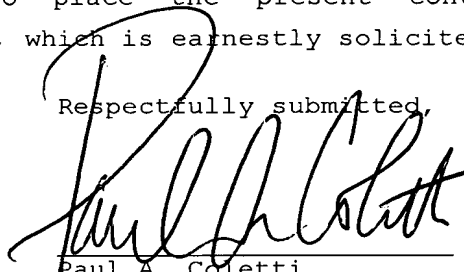
said unexpanded configuration comprises a plurality of longitudinally disposed wave-shaped struts; and

a plurality of circumferential links for maintaining the struts in a tubular structure, wherein each strut is connected at a plurality of locations by a link to an adjacent strut, each link being axially displaced from any circumferentially adjacent link.

REMARKS

This amendment is believed to place the present continuation application in condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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